

work with the sole purpose of helping others to reach their full potential. At the core of his being was his deep commitment and love for his people, the Chippewa Cree. Through them, his legacy continues.

As a great leader, Roddy personified the meaning of commitment, vision and honor. His people, Indian Country, the United States of America and the world are better for having been witness to his life on earth.●

BENJAMIN CARSON

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today it is my privilege to honor an Oregon Veteran Hero. On December 12, 1941, 18-year-old Benjamin Carson left his family dairy farm in rural Minnesota to join the United States Marine Corps. He would join a long family legacy of military service. Carson's grandfather's grandfather was in the Revolutionary War, his great grandfather served in the Civil War, his dad fought in World War I, and he would soon fight in World War II. Though all were wounded in battle, none of them died as a result of their service.

After arriving in San Diego at the U.S. Marine recruit depot, Carson began a strict training regimen. A month later, he graduated from recruit school and volunteered to go to war immediately. Carson was interviewed by James Roosevelt's son who asked him four questions—what he did for a living, whether he could swim, whether he could march 30 miles a day on a cup of rice, and how often did he go to Sunday School. Carson must have given the correct answers because 4 days later he was selected for duty.

Carson left that day with members of the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion commanded by Colonel Carlson, known today as "Carlson's Raiders." Carson was selected for a special unit because of his strong swimming skills. On August 8, 1942, Carson joined more than 200 men on submarines headed for the Makin Islands. Their objective was to destroy enemy installations, gather information, and divert Japanese attention from the Solomons.

Fighting broke out nearly immediately as Carlson's men landed ashore on August 17, 1942. About 30 men were lost and another 16 wounded. Under fierce opposition, Colonel Carlson made a decision to withdraw back to the original landing site and launched his boats for a return to sea. However, since morning the surf had kicked up considerably, and with their outboard motors repeatedly swamped, relatively few of the boats could make it out through the breakers. Many capsized, and most of the marines were cast back onto the beach. Carson was one of the few that survived.

In November of 1942, Carson was sent to Guadalcanal. He was overseas fighting in various battles until January of 1944, when he was sent home for a 30-day furlough at which time he met his future wife. He married Helen on May

5, 1944, and two days later shipped out to battle again.

On February 19, 1945, Carson was a squad leader in the 5th wave to hit Red Beach in Guadalcanal. The fighting was intense and men were dropping quickly. With only nine of his men left, Carson was shot in the arm. He spent 5 weeks in a hospital base on Pearl Harbor and received the Purple Heart for his injuries. He was discharged on January 6, 1946 after the war had ended.

Carson went to college on the GI Bill and received a degree in Forestry from Iowa State College. He went on to work for the Forest Service and maintained an active lifestyle with his wife and two sons. Eventually the couple moved to Oregon, where they have lived since 1978.

Carson says his military experience has very much shaped his life. His sense of duty to his country and the people who have died in the name of freedom has never left him. Nearly 60 years after the famous battle on Makin Island, Carson participated in a campaign to recover the dead. In 2001, authorities located 19 bodies on Makin Island, all American servicemen. Carson says it was extremely gratifying to be able to offer some closure for the families of the deceased.

Though he has an artificial shoulder from the injuries he suffered while shot in battle, Carson still travels and works on his farm. He and his wife volunteer with the Mercy Corps and recently traveled to Uzbekistan, where they helped teach Uzbeks about agriculture.

For his selfless service to others, and to the United States in times of war, I salute Benjamin Carson as an Oregon Veteran Hero.●

NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

● Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the decade of economic development and social service leadership provided to my State by the New Jersey Community Development Corporation. NJCDC's success has been widely and deservedly acknowledged. And the foundation for that success is the complete commitment to its mission of revitalizing urban areas through job creation, affordable housing, educational initiatives and effective and pragmatic social support services.

Established in Paterson, NJ, the city planned by Alexander Hamilton as this country's premier urban industrial center, NJCDC has built a corporate model for grassroots advocacy and activism based on Paterson's tradition of cultural diversity and industrial vitality.

The agency is the linchpin of a collaborative network of community, educational and government organizations and agencies. The results of this partnership are notable: an AmeriCorps project enlisting volunteers as mentors to at-risk youth and support companions for the frail elderly; community

economic development and restoration efforts including the refurbishing of Paterson's historic raceway system and its Great Falls Historic District; the establishment of a transportation opportunities center to provide job training and jobs for a disadvantaged population; building and operating housing for homeless youth and the homeless mentally ill population; community residences and day programs to help developmentally disabled adults lead independent lives; educational initiatives including an alternative academy high school for inner-city students and a YouthBuild program; and one of my own priorities, financial literacy programs leading to economic security for inner-city and senior populations.

All of this in the relatively short span of 10 years.

I am pleased to enter this tribute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, with every expectation for NJCDC's continued achievements.●

MEL SHELTON, EDUCATOR AND INSPIRATION TO MANY

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an Idahoan of exceptional talent. Many possess remarkable talents, but this individual stands out because he has used his gifts to enrich the lives of others, educate young people, inspire creativity and provide beauty and drama that resides in the music of the heart. Mel Shelton, former Boise High School Band Director, Boise State University, BSU, Director of Bands and Professor of Music Education, member of the Boise Philharmonic, conductor and soloist with the Boise Municipal Band, founder and conductor of the Treasure Valley Concert Band, retired Professor Emeritus, Director of Bands from BSU, and internationally recognized composer has proven to be an exemplary artist, passionate and driven educator and dedicated citizen.

Mel has pushed countless students to reach out to the furthest boundaries of their talent and energy. He has exposed young musicians to new places and foreign countries, providing them with experiences that they will be able to draw artistic inspiration from for the rest of their lives. His incredible orchestral and band compositions are interpretations of profound life experiences. His exposure to and friendship with students from the Basque community in Boise, incidentally the largest such community in the nation, inspired him to compose the first Basque music specifically published for concert band media. Some of the most rugged peaks of Idaho, the Grand Tetons, were the inspiration for a piece by the same name. Mel also composed a work in honor of fallen wildland firefighters recently entitled "Requiem for Wildfire Heroes." These and many other of Mel's works have been on "Required Lists" for contests and festivals throughout the country, and he has been the well-deserved recipient of